



Department of Justice

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HEROIN TRAFFICKERS INDICTED IN OVERDOSE DEATH

COLUMBUS — A federal grand jury here has indicted Jose Manuel Cazares Contreras and Victor Delgadillo Parra on charges that they committed manslaughter when they sold heroin to a Grove City man who died from an overdose of the drug.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Anthony C. Marotta, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration; Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes, and Grove City Police Chief Joseph Wise announced the indictment returned yesterday.

The indictment alleges that Contreras and Parra, who are Mexican citizens in this country illegally, conspired to distribute heroin in August, 2007 and that a Grove City man died as a result of an overdose of the heroin they sold him. The crime carries a punishment of at least 20 years and the possibility of life imprisonment.

The nine-count indictment also charges the men with conspiracy (punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment), five counts of trafficking heroin (punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment on each count), one count of possession of more than one kilogram of heroin (punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment.)

The indictment is the result of an ongoing investigation by an Ohio High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force, known as the Southwest Border Task Force. The Task Force has been in existence for approximately three years. It is funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The Task Force's mission is to identify and dismantle drug trafficking organizations operating in Columbus, Ohio with direct ties to the southwest border of the United States and the Republic of Mexico.

Task Force agents arrested Contreras and Parra on October 17, 2007. They have been in custody since their arrest.

DEA reports that in the past 12 months, their agents and task force officers have arrested 452 people in the central Ohio area on heroin trafficking charges, recovered 12 kilograms of heroin and more than \$189,000 in cash.

Lockhart commended the investigation by the Grove City Police officers, Franklin County Sheriff's Deputies and DEA agents, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dave DeVillers, who is prosecuting the case. Other agencies participating in the Task Force include the Fairfield Hocking Major Crimes Unit and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

An indictment is merely an accusation. All defendants should be presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

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